

11 June 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

25X1A

1. [REDACTED] Larry Houston, and I met with the Acting DCI this afternoon and discussed the Powers' situation.
2. Mr. McMahon said that Powers has been told that there is White House pressure, via Pierre Salinger and Bobby Kennedy, for him not to write. I asked who told Powers, since I had called Salinger at Mr. Houston's suggestion, and the only one I told was Mr. Houston. Houston pleaded "not guilty."
3. General Carter mentioned that Mr. Helms had reported that Bobby Kennedy said he had been approached by Wise and Ross, who have heard that Powers is writing a book, and they wanted to point out that they had classified information which they did not use in their U-2 book, so they wish to protest Powers' doing a book on matters not contained in their book.
4. General Carter read a memorandum of last Friday signed by Powers but prepared by a cleared lawyer in which Powers stated that the General Counsel's office and Security authorized him to enter into deals and to write a book or articles as he saw fit. Mr. Houston denied any personal knowledge of such authority but said someone on a lower level might have done it. [REDACTED] remained silent.
5. Mr. McMahon said that since Powers acted in good faith in paying a retainer to the lawyer, who was recommended to him by Mr. Houston's office, that CIA should reimburse Mr. Powers for the expense he had been put to if he now will not be permitted to write a book. No one objected to this. General Carter said he thought the idea sounded like a fair and equitable one.
6. I stated my understanding as a result of my talk with Salinger, who had talked with Bobby Kennedy, that since CIA controls Mr. Powers, while he is in our employ, we must see that he does not write nor enter into any contracts to write, but that in answer to inquiries we will maintain the President's position that he is a free agent but our Security regulations still apply.
7. I pointed out that Mr. Powers had submitted to LIFE magazine an outline of a story he would write for them for a price, and that the press contact did not come through my office and Powers did not comply with our regulation. I recommended that Powers be handled like any other CIA employee and be required to submit the request to Security, Security in turn would furnish the papers to us as usual, and I would disapprove the request, because also the Director is on record as saying he did not wish Mr. Powers to write or to enter into a contract to write while in the employ of the CIA. General Carter said this is really a tough one and the DCI will have to make a decision, "but I agree with everyone of you."